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conditions existing at the beginning of 1869 (p. 9 *et seq.*), insufficient attention is paid to the highly important matter of the relation of Louisiana politics to the "national game" being played by the Congressional leaders. It will not, in my judgment, be possible to understand what went on in Louisiana without a frank, if concise, statement of national conditions. Similarly, in the handling of such a matter as the Colfax massacre, though Miss Lonn is perfectly unprejudiced, her narrative is not presented with that sort of clearness and vigor that should be perfectly consistent with accuracy and fairness. She is too timid about expressing opinions; it is not enough to present the facts, to quote freely the conflicting partizan opinions of the time (as on pp. 260-267); the function of the historian should be to digest and interpret where it is needful.

The volume will be welcome to the student, and should find a place in every library dealing with American history. But its value to the student would be very much greater if the index were more complete and better classified.

PIERCE BUTLER.

The Autobiography of a Pennsylvanian. By SAMUEL WHITAKER PENNYPACKER, Governor of Pennsylvania, 1903-1907. (Philadelphia: John C. Winston Company. 1918. Pp. 564. \$3.00.)

PROBABLY no state in the Union has ever had a governor with a mind so original as that of Samuel W. Pennypacker of Pennsylvania. With purposes which on the whole were fine, ideas on the most various subjects which were suggestive, turns of phrase which were unexpected and frequently bizarre, he was a man above others to be thanked for having bequeathed us an account of his life. Without question no book is quite like this one. The outlook at times is not from any great eminence. The tower on which the writer stood was not of the highest, but from where he did stand he saw with penetrating eye and has now given others his impressions with courage and fidelity.

As an industrious antiquary and annalist on Pennsylvania topics, well known, wherever he was known at all, for his loyalty to the history and the traditions of the state, the president for many years of the good and useful Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Governor Pennypacker as a matter of course has brought into his autobiography much that bears upon this branch of learning. He gained impressions and cherished recollections of a large number of men, many of no repute outside of their own community, though not a few were of national stature. The writer of American history for the period will find it profitable, therefore, to refer to the work; the writer of local history must find it indispensable to do so.

The criticism of men still living and of events and policies still lying within the range of daily conflict is rather perilous. That the author is deceased and is in a way protected by the *de mortuis nil nisi bonum*,

does not completely close the door to rejoinder. The chapters included in this volume earlier appeared in several of the newspapers of the state which obtained the rights to their use. Their publication led not unnaturally to charges of doubtful taste. This will be the price of immediate publication of such literary matter. A well-known Philadelphian, a contemporary of Governor Pennypacker, whose death only a short while preceded his, kept a journal but stipulated that it should not be published for a century. It would be difficult to imagine the pother which must have arisen if the diaries of John Quincy Adams and Gideon Welles had come to the light of day while those persons of whom the authors spoke were still alive. One was published twenty-six years, the other thirty-three years, after the death of the diarists, and even then both drew upon themselves the inevitable penalty of being thought ill-humored, uncharitable, and egotistical old gentlemen. What labor the daily insertion of descriptions and judgments in a diary entails upon a man living in the midst of arduous engagements (and no other need essay the task, for he will have little to tell) few who have not done so much can know. The writing of an autobiography is similarly laborious. What gives it worth is the fact that it is done in the heat of feeling and that it is an honest and truthful reflection of experience. It were idle for any with pretense to wisdom to complain of the inclusion, in a writing of this kind, of the very things which if they were wanting would deprive it of its reason for existence.

The historian may not accept the judgment but he may pause to note what Governor Pennypacker thought of Senator Quay:

Quay had earnestly tried to do a service for Pennsylvania. Little esteem did he win by the effort. The difference between his reputation and that of Clay over the country and abroad consists in the fact that Kentucky stood firmly behind Clay with all of his faults and that Pennsylvania, so far as expression went, failed so to stand behind Quay with all his merits (p. 281, *cf.* p. 351).

The Governor was frankly not a democrat:

Often an imp of a demagogue leads a herd of swine into the sea and there they are drowned. The real truth of the matter is that the masses of the people are ill trained and uninformed. . . . It may be conceded that, given sufficient time, the popular judgment is apt to settle upon the correct principles, yet in the meantime Joan of Arc has been burned to death, Poland has been parted in fragments, the Boers have been robbed of their mines, and the Capitol at Washington has been laid in ashes (p. 279).

None can peruse this volume without finding in it matter for thought and discussion. Now and then he will be invigorated by what he will meet with as he turns the pages; at other times amused by the writer's conscious or, as we must think, often unconscious humor. The Pennypacker name will have long life in the history of the governor's office in Pennsylvania, and this book will be a material aid to the attainment of that end.

ELLIS PAXSON OBERHOLTZER.